

State Rehabilitation Council (SRC)
April 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Meeting locations:

This meeting was held at:

Videoconferencing:

Delaware Department of Labor
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
4425 N. Market Street
Wilmington, DE 19802

Delaware Department of Labor
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Blue Hen Corporate Center, Suite 2 H
Dover, DE 19901

SRC Council Members Present:

Monica Edgar - Acting Chair
Nicole Barr (Dover)
Karen DiNardo
Alvin Emory
Christina Andrews (teleconference) membership pending
Emmanuel Jenkins (Dover)
Robin McKinney-Newman
Jackie Poquette
Loretta Sarro
Despina Wilson
Jamie Wolfe (Dover)

General Attendees Present:

Sharon Boland – DVR
Andrea Guest – DVR
Jocelyn Langrehr – DVR

Members Absent:

Ellen Coulston
Janie Libby
Dale Matusevich
Alexia Wolf

Welcome

Moni began the meeting at 12:15 p.m. by welcoming the group and thanking everyone for attending. The attendees self-introduced themselves.

Director's Report

New Budget/Order of Selection

Andrea noted that a new federal budget has passed which includes increases for cost of living and the Supported Employment program. She briefly discussed Order of Selection and waiting list, noting that there are about 100 people waiting and that the list is monitored weekly. A member asked if DVR knows/tracks the average time on the waiting list. At this time, since the list was just started, DVR does not track this data. It was also noted that Category 3 participants

may be on the list for a longer period of time because people with most significant disabilities are served first.

Pre-ETS, Project SEARCH, ESSE

Andrea stated that the four Project SEARCH (PS) programs will be moving toward year-end completion in May and soon after will be able to report employment outcomes. The PS Programs include Christiana Care Health Systems, Bayhealth, DelDot, and Nanticoke, and there is at least one program in each state county. She also stated that DVR would like to create additional PS partnerships but the program is expensive to operate and there are specific requirements such as a large employer who can provide an area for the classroom.

Andrea also noted that DVR is looking to revamp the Early Start to Supported Employment (ESSE) Program by infusing new energy and thinking as well as making families aware of it. In planning for Pre-ETS, demand is high with limited funding for literally thousands of potentially eligible students. To best utilize our dollars knowing that we cannot serve everyone, and that we are just one entity in a partnership, we are looking at the responsibilities of other partners and groups.

WIOA Update

The 2018 modification to the State Plan is available for public comments until April 13. It is posted on several DOL social media channels and it will be sent to SRC members. WIOA core partners include DVR, Department of Labor's Employment and Training (E&T), and the Division for Visually Impaired (DVI), Division of Libraries, and the Department of Education (DOE).

ACT Teams

Andrea discussed how DVR is revitalizing Supported Employment and ACT Team efforts. ACT Teams providers managed by Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAHM) include Horizon House, RHD, and Connections. DVR believes that offering business-based learning opportunities, training with a workplace, a crossover to an apprenticeship may be a solution and help people participating in an ACT Team. It was noted that it is difficult to become a journeyman, and this opportunity discussed here may be a shortened version. Transferable skills are a key and considering how the mainstream workforce has changed. Workers do not stay in the same job for long periods of time, for a variety of reasons. A discussion about "business-based learning opportunities" and its connotations with self-employment and employment in general followed.

"VISION 2020"

Andrea gave a presentation about "Vision 2020," a national initiative currently being rolled out by the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) in partnership with Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). "Vision 2020" celebrates 100 years of service of the VR in the year 2020, and focuses on the future and change. The campaign came about in response to discussion with advocacy groups and legislators regarding the program needed to be overhauled.

The four guiding principles of the campaign include: 1) Driven by mission, dual customer focused; 2) Lead change through innovation; 3) Customized services to meet the needs of the consumer and business; and 4) Continue to create partnerships to maximize resources. She elaborated on each of the principles and noted that additional information would be shared as the campaign rolls out.

Legislative Updates

It was noted that there are no bills currently in place relating to our work. The minimum wage bill was defeated and then resubmitted the next day. The question now is will the bill be heard

before the summer break? Minimum wage greatly impacts people with disabilities as many enter organizations at entry level positions and often stay at that level.

State Council for People with Disabilities Update

The SCPD is working on revitalizing the council and planning a retreat. Plans also include collapsing committees. There was also a discussion re: House Bill 620, concerning businesses do not need to make their business accessible and a change in the amount of handicapped spaces in new parking lots or parking lots where improvements are made.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

-END-

The next meeting is June 11

2018 Meeting Schedule

August 13, October 8, December 10